

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) An isolated substrate polypeptide and an optionally included covalently attached tag sequence for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), which begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the tag is optionally covalently attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal of said polypeptide and said tag is selected the group consisting of a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

6. (Currently Amended) An isolated substrate polypeptide and an optionally included covalently attached tag sequence for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13), which begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the tag is attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal of said polypeptide and said tag is selected the group consisting of a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

7. - 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~mutant substrate~~ polypeptide ~~for a disintegrin-like and metalloprotease with thrombospondin type-1 motif, 13 (ADAMTS-13)~~, wherein said polypeptide has a cleavage site between the 1605th Tyr and 1606th Met of SEQ ID NO:1 for ADAMTS-13, which polypeptide has an amino acid sequence identity of at least 90% or higher to a) ~~a substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13~~, which begins at amino acid 1587 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of ~~wild-type human von Willebrand factor (VWF) in SEQ ID NO:1~~, or b) ~~a substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13~~, which begins at amino acid 1596 and ends at amino acid 1668 of the amino acid sequence of ~~wild-type VWF in SEQ ID NO:1~~.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, or the mutant substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9, further having a tag sequence attached at the N-terminal and/or at the C-terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11, wherein the tag is selected the

group consisting of ~~proteins,~~ a glutathione transferase (GST) fusion protein, luciferase, beta-galactosidase, His tag peptides, coupling agents, radioactive labels, and chromophores.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant~~ substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11, wherein the tag is for immobilization on a solid phase.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 or the mutant~~ substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 13, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for measuring ADAMTS-13 activity in a subject, which comprises contacting a ~~mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 7,~~ the polypeptide according to claim 9 with plasma obtained from a normal subject, followed by analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments to make a control; and contacting said ~~mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13~~ polypeptide with plasma obtained from the subject, followed by analyzing resultant polypeptide fragments in a similar way and making a comparison with the control.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A high throughput method for measuring the activity of ADAMTS-13 in plasma from subjects, which comprises employing a ~~mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 7~~ the polypeptide according to claim 9.

17. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic composition for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, or the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9.

18. (Previously Presented) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 9.

21. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 11.

22. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 12.

23. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 13.

24. (Currently Amended) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the ~~mutant-substrate~~ polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 14.

25. (New) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 5 or 6, wherein said tag is for immobilization on a solid phase.

26. (New) The substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13, according to claim 25, which is immobilized on a solid phase.

27. (New) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 25.

28. (New) A kit for *in vitro* testing of the decrease or deficiency of ADAMTS-13 activity in a patient, comprising as the essential component the mutant substrate polypeptide for ADAMTS-13 according to claim 26.

29. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 9, wherein said polypeptide contains no Cys residue.